



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

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Palmdale Man Charged with Murder for Triple-Fatal Crash

A 37-year-old man has been charged with murder after a traffic collision in Lancaster that claimed the lives of two women and a 2-year-old girl, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Eric Deshawn Johnson (dob 7/19/78) of Palmdale, faces three counts of murder and one count of driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage causing injury with a great bodily injury allegation.

Deputy District Attorney Sun Chung said case MA069027 also charges Johnson with a misdemeanor count of driving when privilege suspended or revoked.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department A01 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch. The case was filed on July 1.

Victims Michelle Maxie, 36, and Anaya Clayton, 2, both of Arizona, and Maisha Garrett, 37, of Paramount all were passengers in the defendant's Ford Escape when it crashed into a Honda Accord on June 19 near Avenue D and the Antelope Valley Freeway, the prosecutor said. The driver of the Accord was injured in the crash but survived, the prosecutor added.

Bail is set at \$6.18 million. If convicted as charged, Johnson faces a possible maximum sentence of 45 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Lancaster Station.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.